GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3602
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
AIDS/HIV
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;SUSHILA SAROJ

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people died due to AIDS in the country as informed by National AIDS Control Society (NACO) as on date;

(b) the number of people infected with HIV in the country at present;

(c) whether the Government are making HIV test compulsory for the young sex workers and their children living in Red Light Area;

(d) if so, the time schedule worked out therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) The cumulative number of reported cases of death due to AIDS in the country as reported to the National AIDS Control Oganisation (NACO) upto 31st December, 2000 is 1722.

(b) Based on the available data from the Nation-wide sentinel surveillance, an estimated 3.7 million people are infected with HIV in the country as on 1999.

(c), (d) & (e) No, Sir. Compulsory or mandatory HIV testing is not a strategy for prevention and control of HIV infection in the country because of the following reasons:-

I) There is no treatment or cure for HIV infection.
II) HIV testing should be voluntary with pre test and post test counseling in order to interrupt the chain of transmission of infection.
III) Mandatory HIV testing would force the risk groups to go underground.